

Landfill waits on paperwork

By VERONICA MONIER
Norton County is still working on getting its new landfill up and going.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald said he had gotten the names of three well-testing companies and would get bids. The commissioner has previously asked him to see if anyone else did well-testing, because GeoCore, the county's well-testing company, was increasing their prices.

There are several test wells around the landfill that need to be tested every six months to make sure there is no contamination seeping out of the landfill into the water supply. Both the two new wells and the old wells, which test for contamination leaking from the old landfill, are all tested at the same time.

Mr. Archibald said he has gotten three bids on a pump to be used at the landfill pit. A pump is needed for removing water from the pit and for the leachate system, which filters water at the landfill.

He said the best bid was from S&W Supply of Hays for \$779. That pump has a Honda engine, he said. This is the type of pump that Bruce Boettcher of BG Consultants, the county's engineers, recommended.

Commissioner John Miller said if that was what the engineers recommended then they should get it. But, he said, Mr. Archibald should talk to Roy's Sales and Service in Norton to see if he could get it cheaper before buying it from S&W Supply.

Mr. Archibald said BG has also come up with a plan for a turnaround in the bottom of the pit.

Originally BG had planned for trash to be dumped from the top of

the pit but the commissioners and Mr. Archibald decided that could allow too much trash blowing so they asked for a road to be built into the pit. A turnaround is needed to get trucks in and out of the pit.

Mr. Miller asked if the turnaround would be approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Mr. Archibald said the engineers thought that it would.

"Let's do what we can to get this thing open," said Mr. Miller.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard from Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen that he, Dr. Jeff McKinley and Emergency Medical Technician Diane Edgett were going to a training seminar in Alabama. He said the training is paid for and all they have to do is get to the airport in Kansas City.

- Learned from Mr. Nielsen that the ambulance department started going door-to-door to get survey responses last week. He said they were getting more filled out and were still getting surveys back. The surveys will be used to determine the number of the county's low-to-moderate income households and will be used to apply for a grant for a new ambulance building or to remodel the existing building.

- Went into two closed sessions to discuss non-elected personnel. The first was for 15 minutes with County Clerk Robert Wyatt. The second was for 10 minutes with Mr. Wyatt and County Treasurer Cindy Linner.

- Looked at the mural in the third floor courtroom. The commissioners are thinking about getting it touched up and looking into getting bids.

Congressman offers internships for students

Congressman Jerry Moran is accepting applications for congressional internships in his Washington, Hays, Hutchinson and Salina offices for the next school year.

The goal of the congressional internship is to give young adults the opportunity to participate in public service. Applications are due by July 29 for fall 2005 internships and Nov. 1 for spring 2006 internships. Intern responsibilities include assisting the congressman and his staff with legislative and administrative projects.

To apply, students should submit an application form, cover letter, resumé, college transcript and

three letters of reference. The cover letter should explain their interest in the internship and what they hope to achieve.

Applications can be obtained online at: www.house.gov/moranks01/internweb.htm or by calling (202) 225-2715.

Students are asked to fax their applications to (202) 225-5124. If unable to fax, they may mail them to Congressman Moran's Hutchinson office, Attn: Intern Coordinator, Box 1128, Hutchinson, Kan. 67504.

For more information, contact the congressman at (202) 225-2715 or visit his web page at www.house.gov/moranks01/.



A seemingly endless train sat on the tracks Thursday morning just north of the elevator at Reager, waiting to take on its shipment of this year's wheat crop. It was picking up grain in Oberlin, Reager and Norton. It was to meet

its counterpart in Orleans, Neb., a train that will have picked up grain in St. Francis and other towns, before heading to a seaport terminal.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Grain moves as harvest nears end

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Norton County's wheat is almost all harvested and the yield is better than expected.

Elevator managers and employees said a lot of farmers were pleasantly surprised.

"Most were pretty pleased," said Kristi Gallentine, bookkeeper at Norcatar Grain. "Two months ago, who would have thought we'd have a harvest like this?"

Mrs. Gallentine estimated that harvest in the Norcatar area was more than 90 percent done with just a few fields left to be cut.

Moisture didn't have any effect, she said, except after the last rain when test weights went down some.

"Harvest is about 98 percent done," said Linda Donovan, co-manager of the Norton Co-op. "The good stuff was really good, and the bad stuff really bad." She said test weights were 60 pounds per bushel, or better and that moisture content was not a concern this year.

Mrs. Donovan said they had adequate storage and were busy loading out rail cars. She said the elevator had made arrangements prior to harvest for cars and another train is expected next week.

On the south side of Norton County, Hi-Plains Co-op at Lenora reported the harvest is 95 percent complete. Office manager, Patricia Otter, said there are a few

farmers who just got started earlier this week and those that are done haven't talked much about yields.

She said those that have said, are getting yields of about 50 bushels to the acre. Ms. Otter also said test weights coming in to the Lenora elevator were good, averaging between 56 and 65 pounds per bushel.

Dan Mannel is the manager of the Lenora elevator. The home office for Hi-Plains is in Colby.

"All things considered, it was a good harvest, said Craig Hammond, owner of Long Island Grain. "Quality in this area was very good. We had lots of 62 pound wheat."

He said cutting was 98 percent

complete. Reports of 20 to 60 bushel per acre yields were common — even in the same field.

"All in all, everyone was pleased," he said.

In Alma, harvest is all but over. Facility manager at Alma Agri-Services, Rod Johnson said it was 99 percent done. Just a few fields were left to cut.

"It was a good harvest; good weather," he said. "It was a lot better than last year. Yields were better than expected. Nothing fantastic but some results were surprising."

All of the elevator operators said that they had no trouble shipping their grain either by truck or by rail.

Parks head visits here

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden was at Prairie Dog State Park on Monday to accompany Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and enjoy the Fourth of July.

Mr. Hayden, now the Director of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, stayed out of the limelight on Monday but he did talk to reporters as he relaxed at a picnic table in the park.

The Wildlife and Park Department oversees 24 state parks, including Prairie Dog, Mr. Hayden said. He and his department is continually working on issues which include water and funding, restrooms and showers at campgrounds and other facilities for boating and wildlife with a shrinking number of dollars from the state.

Mr. Hayden said it will be necessary to make changes in the park system and he feels it is necessary to work with the Legislature to ensure a future for Kansas outdoor recreational facilities.

"If we want a state park system in the future," he said, "we'll have to change."

The former governor said that the works well with the Senate but not so well with some members of the House.



Kansas Secretary of Wildlife and Parks talked to Deena Wentz, a reporter for KONK radio during Fourth of July festivities at Prairie Dog State Park on Monday.

— Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes

Several House members are not convinced the outdoors is worth putting money into, he said. They just don't see the value.

Mr. Hayden said that those Representatives should have been at the park on Monday to see the show and watch how people were getting value out of the outdoors.

Gov. Sebelius was in Norton for the Fourth of July because Sebelius Reservoir has a place in her heart, the former governor

said. Mr. Hayden said that his office has been working with the Alma Irrigation District, which owns most of the water rights for the lake, to make sure there is enough water for fishing, boating, camping and water sports.

The water rights are now being leased from the irrigation district, he said, but he would like to see a permanent solution to the problem.

Any transfer of water rights

would require the approval of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, he said, but that agency has already said it would support an agreement between the state and the irrigation district.

Mr. Hayden said he would like to see more public land.

"We're going to make sure there's a place for future generations to hunt, to fish, to boat, to camp," he said. "We think there should be many more places like this around the state."

Advertisement for Affac featuring a duck and the text: "You spend a third of your life at work. You shouldn't spend the other two-thirds dreading it. Affac."

Advertisement for High Plains featuring a man's face and the text: "Df WwZ X dZV ej U Vd e ^ R V j ` f ^ ` c V ` W R ^ R _ Z ..."

Advertisement for Harlan County Bank featuring the text: "The HARLAN COUNTY BANK 8 Month Celebration CD 3.75 A.P.Y. annual percentage yield \$10,000 Minimum Deposit HARLAN COUNTY BANK (308) 928-2101"